



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

September 3, 2004

# News Release

## **ICE SEIZES \$622,954 IN SMUGGLED FUNDS FROM AUSTRALIA-BOUND TRAVELER** *Attempt made to leave U.S. while hiding check for \$613,700*

PHILADELPHIA—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents seized an endorsed negotiable \$613,700 bank check, cash and foreign currency from an Australia-bound traveler Thursday night at Philadelphia International Airport after he failed to report the funds to U.S. officials despite being warned of the requirement to do so.

It is a violation of federal law to export or import more than \$10,000 worth of currency or monetary instruments without declaring them to U.S. officials.

The traveler was randomly stopped as part of the agency's effort to protect the financial infrastructure of the United States by preventing the smuggling of funds out of the country. It is common and lawful for officials to stop travelers exiting the United States and question them for this reason.

Despite being advised of the currency reporting law, the traveler declared he carried only \$8,000 in U.S. currency. A search of his luggage uncovered the check, which was seized along with travelers checks, an indeterminate amount of foreign currency, and the U.S. currency. A total of \$622,954 was seized.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure, and transportation security laws. ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.*